

**GALENA
RESTORATION ADVISORY BOARD (RAB) MEETING
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, January 15, 2003**



ATTENDEES

Ragine Attla, Loudon Tribal Council (LTC)
Theresa Clark
Gordy Cruger, Chugach Development Corporation (CDC)/City of Galena
Marti Early, Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC)
Ann Farris, ADEC
Dave Hertzog, 611 Civil Engineer Squadron (CES), United States Air Force (Air Force)
Marc Hewett, 611 CES, Air Force
Carole Holley
Lewis "Tom" Johnson, Alaska Department of Transportation (ADOT)
Jeff Kellam, Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR)
Phil Koontz, City of Galena
John Mackey, CDC/City of Galena
Phyllis Walters, CDC/City of Galena
Randy Warnke, Air Force
Steve Wilhelmi, Air Force
Jody Wireman, Air Force

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 p.m.

INTRODUCTIONS

Meeting attendees introduced themselves and stated their affiliations, if any.

Mr. Jeff Kellam introduced himself via speakerphone and explained how ATSDR will be doing evaluations of the hazardous waste sites in Galena, and that he would be attending future RAB meetings in person. Mr. Tom Johnson stated he felt it would be a good idea to get a flyer out or do a radio ad giving his name and address as a point of contact for anyone who has questions relating to environmental issues. Mr. Dave Hertzog stated that within the next couple of weeks he would have Mr. Steve Wilhelmi draft up something regarding ATSDR and, once it is reviewed, it will be published and distributed to the RAB Board members and the community of Galena.

NEW BUSINESS

GALENA SCHOOLS AVIATION FACILITY

Mr. Hertzog introduced a flyer regarding the Galena Aviation School. Flyers have been distributed to the School Board meeting, throughout the community, and some will be left at today's RAB Board meeting. The flyer contains information regarding the history of the school and outlines the work to be conducted at the school. There are potential indoor air problems, and recommendations have been made to conduct indoor air quality sampling. Jody Wireman and Mr. Hertzog have gone through the facility and will get information from the school about the frequency and times students are present.

Within the next couple of weeks, Mr. Wireman will have a sampling plan completed that can be commented on. The target date for sampling to start is March 2003 and sampling will continue until March 2004. The first year will be a baseline and the second year will be to see if there are any trends. If any engineering controls are added to the facility, such as cementing the floor and/or putting in a vacuum, the sampling will have to be conducted again. Mr. Hertzog stated he feels this will be a long-term project.

Mr. Hertzog, Ms. Ann Farris, and Mr. Wireman attended a conference in December 2002 in San Francisco regarding indoor air quality. The main points are provided on the Air Force website and will be sent to the communities for comments.

A historical report has been provided to the RAB for comments. The report provides a historical prospective on what is known from 1993 through the present time regarding air quality. A depressurization system was installed at the school in August 2002, along with an operations, maintenance, and monitoring plan that has been distributed for comments. Once all comments are received, the report will be finalized and distributed.

Mr. Hertzog, Ms. Farris, and Mr. Wireman went to San Antonio for a weeklong meeting and discussion with the Remedial Process Optimization (RPO) group that was working in Galena during August 2002. The preliminary data contains most of what is already known, except for a refinement of the plumes and areas of contamination. The draft of the report should be available in a week and will be distributed for review.

Mr. Hertzog has assigned new tracking numbers for the contaminated sites and feels this new tracking system will help newcomers to the area to be able to physically locate the sites, as well as be able to tell when a particular site has been cleaned up and closed. These new tracking numbers were entered in the Air Force's data base as relative risks, and all sites came out with a ranking of high. This means they have to be worked on by 2006, except for the DDT soil sites, which have a low ranking because the contamination is entombed.

The Air Force has budgeted \$2 million for Galena for the year 2003. The Petroleum, Oil, and Lubricant (POL) Area is scheduled for a year-long pilot study to get data on groundwater fluctuations and determine what needs to be done at the site.

There was a meeting in November 2002 with the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regarding the listing of the facility. Ms. Farris stated that there was question of whether or not Galena was going to be listed as a Superfund site. Earlier in 2002, the EPA was asked to evaluate the site for Superfund listing and the National Priority List. The EPA is through looking at site data and has ranked it using their hazard rating system. A preliminary score indicated the site was ranked high enough to be a Superfund Site. The community, EPA, State, and Air Force, however, agreed that a Superfund listing for the site would not be the best option, and the EPA is trying to figure out how they should be involved. There was no resolution and another meeting will be held in February 2003.

There is something called a State Deferral Agreement that has been used in Washington, but never in Alaska. The gist of the State Deferral Agreement is deferring regulatory authority to the State, which is similar to the way Galena has been operated in the past – where the State would be the primary regulatory agency. Having looked at an example of the agreement, the State and Galena are not eager to sign such an agreement; this has to be worked out.

Other options are some type of review by the EPA on some frequency (annually or every 5 years), or forming a technical project team with the City, Tribe, Air Force, and ADEC. One of the issues was to make sure the City and the Tribe would have decision-making capabilities for Galena – that is being discussed.

Mr. Hertzog stated he feels the community needs to be heard on what they want and need so that it can be put into something that will fit a program. Ms. Farris stated it is an administrative concern at this point that needs to be worked out. Mr. Johnson stated that to satisfy the concerns of the community, there needs to be ongoing testing of the wells between the known plume sites and the river to make sure that there is no movement and/or contamination.

Mr. Hertzog stated that the data to be collected in 2003 and in the future will insure that there is no pathway and, if there is, to eliminate them. The process is for a remedial investigation (RI) that describes what is contaminated at a certain site, then a feasibility study is conducted to look at the technologies that will allow the site to be cleaned up. At that point, as well as during the RI, the community is brought in and told what has been found, what the decision process is, and then asked to make a decision with the Air Force on what should be done. That is then layed out in a Proposed Plan.

Mr. Johnson stated that in the 7 years the Galena RAB Board has been working, he has given up the idea of having anything cleaned up because nothing has been accomplished other than a lot of testing. He feels no-one is able to tell him that there is less of any contaminant than there was 7 years ago, and it is his belief that 7 years from now everyone will still be here, and the contaminants will still be here. All that can be accomplished in the next 7 years is to monitor and assure the public that nothing is being transmitted through any of the identifiable pathways. Mr. Johnson feels that most of the testing is so technical that meaningful involvement does not happen.

Mr. Hertzog responded that he felt Mr. Johnson was correct in what he stated and that he was not going to slam anything that has already happened. He feels there has not been any contamination cleanup. Part of the information he will have after this year or year and a half of study is there will be X amount of contamination, where it is, and what the objective will be to be able to give a

quantitative timeline to remediate the area and how it is going to be accomplished. From there, it will be a matter of monitoring and every couple of years it will be determined if the goals and objectives are being met, or if something more needs to be done. He feels there is no cleanup goal, no remediation objective of how long it is going to take to get there, and then implementing it all. There have been a lot of meetings by the Galena RAB in the past 7 years, and there has been drum removal and the biovent systems were installed. Hopefully, within 2 years from now there will be a decision and everyone will know how long remediation is going to take – based upon science. At that time, there will be something that can be measured to determine if the program is getting close to the goals and objectives.

Mr. Johnson stated he feels Ms. Farris is making sure those things are getting accomplished. For the public, he understood that the purpose of the RAB Board was to convince them in a non-technical manner that nothing is potentially getting into pathways that can be harmful, and if it takes 25 years to clean it up, the public needs to be told every year for the next whatever years, that nothing is traveling into those pathways. Mr. Hertzog agreed and felt he needs to be able to explain one-on-one why a certain decision was made and why he is bringing in outside people who can break information down in a non-technical manner so the public will understand. Mr. Johnson stated he felt the RPO group as a whole did a very good job of breaking the information down into non-technical terms and that getting the RPO group here was the best thing to happen. He feels the RPO group's final recommendation will be a real positive tool and a step in the right direction.

Ms. Farris asked Mr. Johnson if the information he is requesting she bring to the meetings is data showing that contaminants are not reaching the river or wells, and the indoor air quality of the hangar is safe. Mr. Johnson responded he does not care about the details of how the risk assessment is technically performed because it is over his head. He stated he wants to hear the RPO group's recommendations and oversight so he has an idea of the big picture. When people come to him and start asking him questions, he is not going to cite technical details because it means nothing to him or them. What he wants to be able to tell the public is there are monitoring wells between the identified plumes and the river and they are being tested for potentially dangerous pathways, and feels he can rely on such information and have the confidence to be able to convince the general public.

Mr. Hertzog thanked Mr. Johnson for his input.

Ms. Theresa Clark asked Mr. Hertzog if the \$2 million is going to be used for clean-up. Mr. Hertzog responded that, in the dynamics of everything, he had not requested officially from the community what they really wanted, but in looking at it from a programmatic standpoint, one of the things he and Ms. Farris saw was they made the decision that Galena needs an RI. When the RPO group was in Galena, they stated more data needed to be collected, and the bioventing wells at Million Gallon Hill needed to be adjusted. At that time in the community, Mr. Hertzog heard the same issues from the community and took those issues to be what the community needed, but did not actually ask what they needed and wanted. He feels overall that is what is lacking from a program standpoint, and he needs to go back and take a look at what has been done, ask what the community knows about where and how deep the contamination is, install new wells, and collect data so that the risk assessments can be updated. Whatever has been done for the last 5 or 6 years will have to be redone. At that time, that information will be brought forward and shared. Once there is an end point where a decision can be made, everyone will have the same level of understanding of what they are doing.

Ms. Clark asked if this was required of the RAB Board and, if not, get on with business. If you need the rubber stamp from the RAB, rubber stamp this and move forward. Mr. Gordy Cruger stated Ms. Clark was speaking for the whole community because the whole community would not come to the room and speak. Mr. Hertzog responded that it goes back to a process – the RAB Board makes recommendations and they are brought forward. He would like a recommendation from the RAB about conducting an RI, as well as for the RAB to indicate what they need.

Ms. Farris stated the proposed plan should be submitted to the RAB and the whole community, with a response period of 30 to 60 days. Then a formal response summary to any comments received is written. That is included in a formal Decision Document. The Decision Document has a response summary that is then signed by the legal agencies, and it becomes a legal enforcement document that binds the Air Force and the State into those decisions. That Decision Document is what Mr. Hertzog needs to get money for actual remedial action. Mr. Hertzog agreed. He feels that if the community wants to endorse what the Air Force is doing, he will ask for a resolution to allow that to happen so they can move forward.

Mr. Johnson stated that for the next agenda they should talk about a priority list that is developed by the community, then brought to the RAB to be presented in this forum. At that time, they can see if anyone has any issues that need to be looked at as a priority from a community standpoint. This priority list needs to be based on basic concerns about contamination.

Mr. Hertzog responded that he has a vision he has worked on for Galena which includes operation of the biovents, installation of a remediation system at the POL tanks, and sampling. He would like to offer this vision to the community. There is going to be ongoing monitoring of all the areas in Galena, and operation of the biovent and remediation systems. He will fight for the community in order to implement the systems and make sure that the equipment stays in place and is operational. He will send out the project list to the RAB Board for next few years and see if there is anything that is lacking.

Mr. Johnson would like an agenda item added for the next meeting to summarize and highlight the work plan. Mr. Marc Hewett stated he would have the whole list up through 2013 available for the next RAB Board meeting. The list would be in plain English for the community to read and understand what the project is going to do. Ms. Clark stated this should have been done in 1980 instead of now. Mr. Hertzog stated he has a list through 2003 that is available now. Mr. Hewett stated the list should be expanded, and the RAB should go over the next 2- or 3-year programs.

Mr. Wireman stated that when he looks at the list, he looks at it from a risk standpoint of the pathways. He looks at the sites and the pathways to the river, any drinking water source, and what time frame someone could get exposed. He would like to have a map to figure out where people are in relationship to the different sites. Mr. Hertzog stated it goes back to Ms. Clark's original statement of having an endorsement of the program after the list is provided. Mr. Johnson stated that if the community sees priorities, they will need to see how well they mesh with Mr. Hertzog's list, or if they are included at all. If there are valid concerns, they should get worked in and be addressed. Mr. Hertzog responded that the Air Force could make changes.

ADEC PROJECT UPDATE

Ms. Farris stated the contamination found at the back door of the Hangar Building has been listed on the State's contaminated site data base, and ADOT has been notified. As soon as she receives the results from the sampling that was performed, it can be hauled off. Mr. Hertzog asked if it was a truck that had been leaking, and Ms. Farris responded that the geo probe hit contamination 3 feet below ground surface. It seemed to be a separate spill from the Air Force, and it is listed separately to be tracked. Mr. Hertzog asked if it was jet fuel and Ms. Farris responded that a sample of the spill brought to the last meeting had a sweet smell. Mr. Johnson stated it went to the lab and came back identified as petroleum hydrocarbons. Mr. Hertzog asked who was notified at ADOT, and Ms. Farris stated Mr. Darin Moekey.

Ms. Farris stated the risk assessment will be updated as part of the RI, and comments will be distributed by next week.

Mr. Hertzog stated that the \$2 million for a risk assessment included installation of wells, ground-water monitoring, and updating the baseline risk assessment. Mr. Hertzog stated that he does not have as good an idea about the sites as the community, since he has only been involved for a short period of time. All the information provided in the meetings will be assessed and summarized by May of 2004. Mr. Wireman stated that the money is not only for the RI, but also for feasibility studies, and Mr. Hertzog agreed.

Mr. Hertzog stated that Dr. Don Kampbell had found dehalococcoids in Galena. Galena will be one of six places at a national level where dehalococcoids have been found that will be tracked for the TCE (trichloroethylene) plumes. Mr. Kampbell should be in Galena sampling for dehalococcoids. Mr. Hertzog thanked the community and the RAB Board for allowing that to occur.

Ms. Marti Early stated ADEC has expanded their website and feels the site is easier to use than the DoD (Department of Defense) website because of security issues. Mr. Hewett stated that the Air Force restoration staff has been working on a website for RABs and additional community information. Ms. Early stated they would link to his site as an additional resource.

Ms. Early stated that she finds the work incredibly technical and felt it was like reading Greek and was very difficult for her to understand. If there was anything she could do to help, she would like to offer her assistance to anyone. Mr. Johnson inquired if there was anything on the ADEC website regarding RABs. Ms. Early replied there was a draft page that shows all the RABs in the state and, once the people in Washington, DC take a look at it and put their blessing on it, it can become a chart of the names of the RABs by location. She is hopeful this will happen in a month's time. Depending on the interest in the site, minutes can be posted and (at some point) there could be a link to a Galena RAB and a page for Galena. Permission needs to be acquired to list someone as the community co-chair, then the page could list anything that the Galena RAB would like.

Mr. Hewett stated he would like to post the RAB information, the RAB minutes, other updates on projects that are ongoing, and items of community interest. Essentially all of the public information that is put forward will be posted on the website. Web access is sometimes easier than the mail or

telephone, and is a good way to distribute information. As long as information is kept updated and current, people will visit the site.

Mr. Steve Wilhelmi stated that public access to Air Force or military websites is restricted, and there is a lot of criteria about what can and cannot be put on the site. He is working on it and will collaborate with the RAB on it.

Mr. Johnson asked if anyone at the meeting had a problem with Ms. Early posting their name, RAB minutes, or anything about this meeting on the ADEC website. Hearing no response, he stated the completed minutes could be forwarded to Ms. Early for posting on the ADEC website.

ELECTION OF NEW CO-CHAIR

Mr. Johnson stated that if anyone would like to fill the seat of co-chair, he would step down and be an alternate and continue to be involved. Otherwise, if they would like him to stay, he will. Mr. Cruger made a motion to retain Mr. Johnson as co-chair. Ms. Clark seconded the motion. Motion was carried.

SET NEXT MEETING DATE

Mr. Johnson asked if there was anything that needed to be on the next agenda. Mr. Hertzog stated he would like to bring up the issue of the frequency of the meetings before adding anything for the next agenda. Mr. Johnson stated that a regular schedule of meetings has never worked, because the schedule is driven by the next government-to-government or the next time Colonel Jim Chamberlain is available. Mr. Hertzog stated that it depends on how often they would like to be updated on what is going on and felt they needed to get on a schedule because of all the things that are happening to keep everyone informed.

Mr. Phil Koontz asked if there was going to be a report out soon, and Mr. Hertzog asked what report he was talking about. Mr. Koontz responded that reports should be available for review prior to meetings. Mr. Hertzog responded that the RPO Report will be out in the next week or two and will contain all the work that was completed in August 2002, as well as Mr. Wireman's sampling and analysis plan for the school. Copies will be provided as the reports become available. Mr. Cruger stated he was not getting information. Mr. Hertzog stated he would like to receive email addresses for everyone to make sure that information is getting to them and, if email does not work, he can send information through the mail.

Mr. Hewett asked what day of the week and which week of the month for meetings would work best for everyone. Ms. Clark asked if a daytime meeting would be feasible and Mr. Hertzog stated he would be able to accommodate that, although it would be harder on the community. Ms. Ragine Attla suggested the second week of the month and Mr. Wilhelmi replied that was the City Council meeting. It was decided the next meeting will take place on Tuesday, March 18, 2003.

Mr. Hertzog stated he would like to have an informal appreciation dinner about every 6 months for the people who have volunteered their time. He suggested they begin at 6 p.m., have dinner, then

conduct the RAB meeting afterwards. He stated he appreciated all of them and wanted to thank them for their time and efforts.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:53 p.m.